

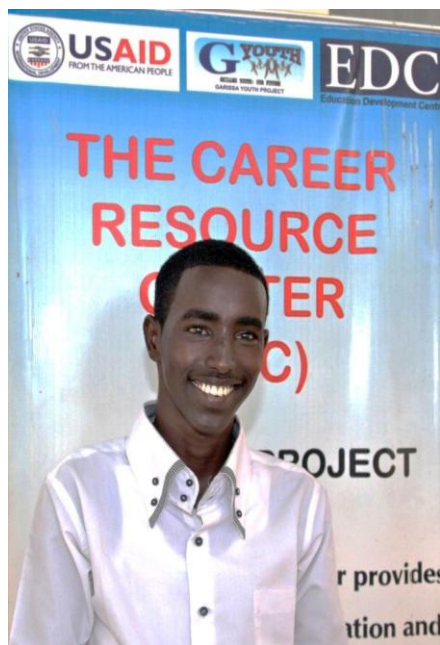


Garissa Youth Project (G-Youth)

What is the Garissa Youth Project?

The Garissa Youth Project is an investment by USAID to counter violent extremism. The project provides direct services to over 5,000 youth in order to reduce radicalization and increase social stability. The program focuses on providing positive alternatives to those most at-risk of recruitment.

Photo: USAID/Joan Lewa



"If it were not for the funds from the American people, there would be no G-Youth and I would probably be a "nothing" in my community. Now I am pursuing my dream career and as a servant leader, I am able to give back to the Garissa community by mentoring out-of-school youth." - Muawiya Karone, G-Youth

Project Duration and Budget

October 2008 – January 2013
\$6.9 million

Who implements G-Youth?

Education Development Center
<http://www.edc.org/>

Where does G-Youth work?

Garissa County, Kenya

What does G-Youth do?

The G-Youth projects enables and empowers youth to lead initiatives that create opportunities for themselves and their communities. The project gives youth greater

access to employment and helps keep youth in school for secondary and higher education.

In 2012, over 3,000 youth attended career development clinics and received career guidance and counseling. G-Youth provided work readiness or business start-up training to 1,363 youth, internships to 262 youth and educational scholarships to 1,229 youth. In addition, 758 youth received training in English as a Second Language (ESL), a course designed for youth in Madrassa non-formal schools. The project trained 412 youth in the International Labor Organization (ILO)/Start Your Business training program. The project trained 237 young men and women in computer repair and networking at the Cisco Networking Academy.

The project also provided 46 community development grants to youth groups to tackle challenges that faced their local communities.

How is G-Youth making a difference?

To-date, over 2,500 Garissa youth are better positioned to pursue employment or livelihoods opportunities, more than 250 youths have been linked to internship opportunities following their successful completion of G-Youth's work readiness training and 664,318 have been reached through weekly radio civic education programs.

What key challenges does G-Youth face?

Violent extremist ideologues and terrorist recruiters take advantage of local grievances and localized disaffection to target vulnerable members of particular communities and draw them into violent extremism. The G-Youth Project plans to expand its activities to the whole of Garissa, Wajir and Mandera Counties. The G-Youth program will also align with USAID's successful Yes Youth Can program to link at-risk youth to a national network of more than one million Kenyan youth between 18-35 who belong to *bunges*, or youth parliaments. Bunge members are committed to advancing peace and unity in Kenya. In FY2012, 382,400 at-risk youth participated in Yes Youth Can conflict mitigation strategies across Kenya, more than five times the number expected.

USAID gives hope to the youth of Garissa

One hundred miles (160 kms) from the Somalia border, in Kenya's North East Province, lies the district of Garissa. With 90% unemployment among youth, Garissa could be fertile ground for the recruitment of young people into extremist groups and activities.

Like many Garissa youth, Muawiya Karone believed his dream of becoming a journalist was never going to materialize. *"I stayed home for more than eight months after high school graduation. I had no future, no money and spent days doing nothing. I was depressed, desperate and willing to do anything to make some money. That was the darkest period of my life and I believe of fellow youth in Garissa, but, thanks to USAID because through the G-Youth program, I am building a good life for myself,"* he explained.

Muawiya participated in the Work Readiness Program (WRP) where he learned leadership, interpersonal and communication skills.

Muawiya boasts of leadership skills he learned during training under the work readiness program. *"The leadership skills enable me to lead a team of 50 youths to organize a three-day Youth Action Summit celebrating Garissa youth as leaders and change agents in our community. These skills have also helped me as the chairperson of the Garissa Youth Consortium (GYC), leading the group in developing the "GYC constitution" whose vision is – "A skilled, empowered and united Garissa youth."*

For more information

<http://www.edc.org/>

Jacqueline Glin

Chief of Party, EDC

jhglin@edc.org

Tel: +254 717 147 466

www.g-youth.org

www.idd.edc.org

Dr. Lucy Kithome

Activity Manager, USAID Kenya

Education and Youth Office

Tel: +254 20 862 2000

Email: lkithome@usaid.gov

Photo: USAID Kenya



G-Youth's female participants participating in a community asset mapping